

Earth Day Every Day at Fort Campbell in 2006



Students enjoy their edible landfills after learning how a landfill is constructed and how recycling is a great way to keep valuable materials out of the landfill.

This year for the first time, in an effort to educate adults, Fort Campbell held an Earth Day Golf Scramble, open to the public. The scramble was presented by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), who sponsored the \$2,000 hole in one prize. TVA also contributed hats, energy conservation kits and flower seeds to participants. Environmental displays that included eco-friendly products and products made with recycled materials were set up at the registration table. Participants were asked to answer the Environmental question was placed at each of the 18 greens. The team with the most correct answers was awarded a round of golf. Over 100 people participated in the golf scramble. Prizes included tree seedlings, flower seeds, energy saving kits, pens, pencils and other promotional materials.

Fort Campbell also initiated an Earth Day Every Day pilot program. This program was developed to recognize environmental stewardship efforts completed by the Fort Campbell schools and their supporting parents and Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO) from September 2005 to April 2006. The Earth Day Every Day program was due to peak at the Army Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 21, 2006. However, due to inclement weather the celebration was cancelled. A tremendous effort was made by greater than 40 state and local organizations to educate not only 2,500 students but also the Fort Campbell public. Several of the organizations left their information, handouts, freebies, etc. to be disseminated to as much of the public as possible. The environmental team continued to visit schools, the post library, housing functions, Unit Safety Stand down organizations and an Open House at the Family Readiness Center to pass on the environmental messages and freebies originally planned for the Earth Day celebration. The team was able to present information to over 1500 people.

The Earth Day message was also disseminated by the elementary students who decorated paper grocery bags with environmental messages. These bags were available for commissary patron use during the week of Earth Day. High School students created Earth Day art and created the recycled "Earth Day Every Day" stewardship trophies for the winning schools.

The Earth Day Every Day concept expanded to other programs and people to include; monthly local library displays and readings, youth services programs (youth service members (students and adults) sewed over 1,000 "ragbags"), and monthly housing programs. Even a group



Students study the limits of natural resources as they mine for chocolate.



Students remove litter from the school grounds. This is a monthly activity they are proud to do. Students typically collect 5-25 pounds of garbage. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans are recycled.



of soldiers who recently redeployed joined the efforts by cleaning dump sites, recycling over 5,000 pounds of material. School PTOs donated scrap material and community members donated time to sew ragbags for the Earth Day celebration. These ragbags, which are a sustainable substitute for plastic bags, will be used by Earth Day participants next year during the 37th annual Army Earth Day Celebration.

Students help diversion rates by recycling aluminum cans. They help the community by donating all monies earned to a local Fort Campbell family assistance program.